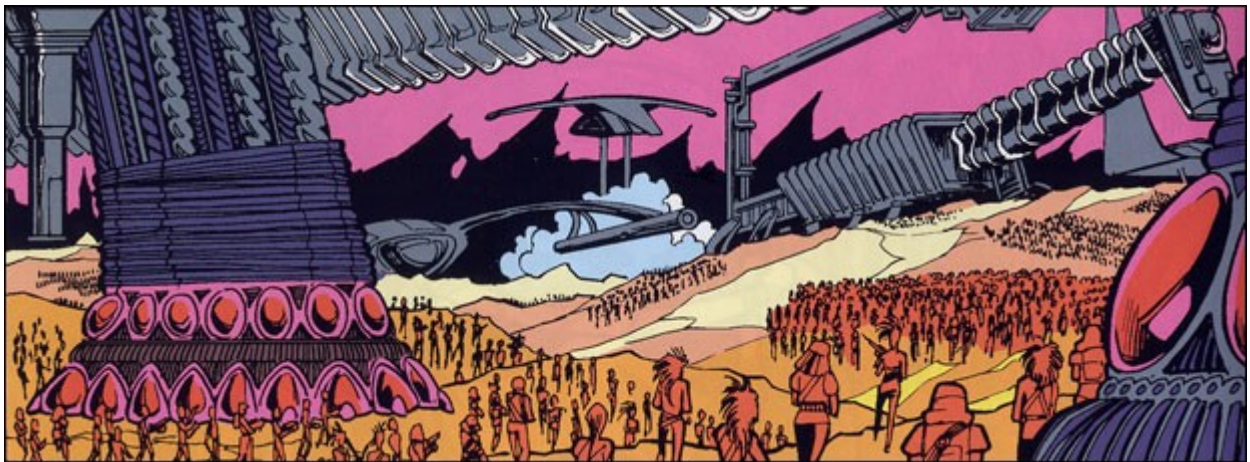


The Forgotten War: The Nagai and the Tofs

By James McFadden. Special thanks to Daniel Wallace and Jason Fry

Set between two stages of the Galactic Civil War, the Nagai and Tof incursion into the galaxy is one of the most overlooked conflicts in the era following the Battle of Endor. Taking advantage of the confusion following Palpatine's death, the mysterious Nagai invaded a number of worlds, swiftly becoming a threat to the beleaguered Alliance of Free Planets. But as quickly as the Nagai had become an enemy, they became an ally against a mutual threat they knew all too well. The Nagai-Tof War would prove to be an important test for the fledgling organization that would become the New Republic.

Recent years have seen renewed interest in this era, due in no small part to the return of Lumiya, the Dark Lady of the Sith who would unleash a new Sith Lord upon the galaxy decades later.



Origins

It is impossible to understand the Nagai-Tof War without learning the troubled history of the two species. The Nagai homeworld, Nagi, is located within the satellite galaxy known as Companion Besh. The planet included harsh wastelands and lush oases, where the Nagai built beautiful cities of crystal and wire. Their civilization was peaceful, dedicated to the study of art and science. It was originally believed the Nagai had no contact with our galaxy before the invasion, but recently uncovered evidence suggests the presence of a small number of Nagai in the galaxy during the Mandalorian Wars. How they came to be forgotten millennia later is still being explored by historians.

Approximately three centuries ago, the Nagai began experimenting with faster-than-light travel and sent out scout ships to explore their galaxy. One vessel caught the attention of the brutal species known as the Tofs. The brawny green-skinned humanoids were aggressive and cruel, their entire society built around conquest and piracy. To them, the Nagai were a weaker species to be exploited and they sent an invasion force to pillage Nagi and subjugate its people. The Nagai were unprepared for the violence and cruelty of the Tofs and their slave species, but eventually began a guerilla war against them. The Nagai's willingness to fight only gave the Tofs more reason to kill or enslave them. The Tofs believed all other species to be inferior, and their "study" of Nagai prisoners amounted to little more than torture. Tof brutality forced the Nagai to transform their society and dedicate themselves to technology and defense. Ancient martial arts and bladed weapons, long used in competition, fitness and meditation, were now used for deadlier purposes.

Years of war proved that a direct assault on Tof forces would be suicidal. In order to survive, the Nagai scattered throughout their galaxy and focused on precision hit-and-run missions launched from hidden bases. Nagai leaders concluded that the defeat of the Tofs could require years -- even decades -- of patience and meticulous planning. As they explored their galaxy, establishing colonies to escape their conquered homeworld, the Nagai came into contact with other species that had experienced Tof oppression. The Faruun were master shipbuilders forced into seclusion on their homeworld by the Tofs. Faruun advances in spaceflight stagnated while they feared traveling beyond their solar system. The Nagai offered them an opportunity to share

technology and join forces against their common enemy. Both species expanded their space fleets and continued to explore their galaxy.

The Nagai later encountered a species of cephalopods known as Maccabrees. A strange species with multiple tentacles and a dense body dominated by a wide humanoid face, the Maccabrees constantly battled amongst themselves. Their dependence on their planet's unique atmosphere kept them isolated, though they did develop rudimentary spaceflight. Despite the Maccabrees' history of conflict, they followed a code of honor, believing that wars could be fought without extreme violence or cruelty. They learned that not all species thought as they did when the Tofs arrived. The Tofs were fascinated by a species so unlike themselves, and demonstrated their interest by capturing Maccabrees and experimenting on them. The Tofs eventually tired of the aliens, but not before forcing them to flee into the underground caverns their ancestors once inhabited. The Nagai convinced the Maccabrees that the only way to regain their honor was to ally with them against the Tofs. The Faruun created advanced suits of armor to allow the Maccabrees to leave their homeworld. The armor gave them the appearance of hulking humanoids, and many they encountered considered them cyborgs.

Generations of Planning

After centuries of war, the Nagai and their allies began to plan their eventual victory over the Tofs. Determined to never again lie helpless before a greater force, they vowed to find themselves a new home and build their own empire. They would then return home and destroy the Tofs. They explored their galaxy, but some more ambitious leaders suggested an exploration of Skyriver "the great galaxy that dominated the night sky. These plans were spurred on by legends of explorers who reached that galaxy millennia earlier and found a vast expanse of planets teeming with life and resources.

Fifty years before their invasion, Nagai scouts were dispatched to Skyriver. Their shortest route across the void, through hyperspace, brought their vessels into the Unknown Regions. An uninhabited sector served as a waypoint for ships arriving from or returning to the Nagai's home galaxy. Constantly shifting rendezvous coordinates made it difficult for scouting parties to be detected. Engineers began to develop primitive cloaking technology ("masking devices" in Nagai nomenclature) to hide their vessels.

The legendary patience of the Nagai was evident in their plan to quietly live among the people of this new galaxy while gathering data to assess whether conquest was possible. Scouts were sent to the centers of culture and commerce, as well as the fringes of society. They found a Republic crumbling under the weight of its own corruption. While politicians became wealthy and complacent, the grumbling of disaffected beings at society's fringes grew louder. The Nagai believed that signs of a coming rebellion were evident, even if such a revolt was years away.

Despite the scouts' mission being one of observation, a few insinuated themselves into Republic society so deeply they wished to be part of it. Krai H'voc settled on Corellia where she fell in love with and married a human. Years later -- thirty-six years before the Battle of Yavin -- Krai's son Bey was born, the first known human-Nagai hybrid. When commanders learned of Krai's marriage, she was ordered to end the relationship and continue her mission elsewhere. She reluctantly left her family with little explanation.

Kor and Vor Essen infiltrated the world of gambling and organized crime, and became so enamored with that lifestyle that they abandoned their mission for a time. The brothers were eventually captured by the slaver Phylus Mon and displayed aboard his starship like zoo animals. Abused and mistreated, the Essens saw the error of wanting to become a part of this society. Along with fellow captives, they escaped and continued to gather intelligence.

Shortly after the Essens' escape, the Republic's Separatist crisis exploded into full scale war. The Nagai concluded the aftermath of the Clone Wars could give them the opportunity they were waiting for. Unexpectedly, the Republic was abruptly transformed into the Empire. The new government more easily reigned in defiant systems and brought an end to the war, preventing the destabilization the Nagai sought. They did not, however, give up hope. Their intelligence network uncovered rumors of a quietly organizing rebellion against the Empire.

As the resistance movement gained momentum, Nagai Ton Arashai followed developments with interest. Arashai gained access to Coruscant's high society as a Senate District maintenance worker. Senators rarely acknowledged him with more than a nod, and he was able to overhear conversations and witness meetings he shouldn't have. Arashai suspected that Bail Organa was connected to the growing resistance movement, and once observed him heading to a secret meeting with a like-minded official. He recognized an Imperial Intelligence agent also following the Senator. Arashai felt a rebellion could lead to the chaos his commanders were waiting for and, fearing Organa's exposure, killed the agent. Nagai leaders reminded their scout his job was only to observe. Over the remainder of the Galactic Civil War, scouts refrained from getting involved in the Empire's affairs in all but the most subtle ways.

Bey, the Wandering Hero

Nagai leaders insisted their scouts had little involvement in the affairs of the Empire, but they had no control over the half-Nagai son of Krai H'voc, Bey. They never predicted his importance in the coming invasion. After Krai left her family, her husband hated her for it, and took his anger out on Bey. As the boy grew, his mixed heritage became more obvious and served as a constant reminder to his father of the wife who abandoned him. By age seventeen, Bey was nearly as tall as a Wookiee, and his hair grew thick and wiry like his mother's. His strange appearance and surprising strength and agility brought resentment from his schoolmates, whose jealousy and suspicion left Bey isolated and lonely. Determined to never be the angry, disturbed man his father had become, the soft-spoken Bey sought out friendship wherever he could find it. He often came to the aid of the orphans of Corellia's capital. He once frightened away a group of bullies who were beating up a nine-year-old orphan named Han Solo. Young Solo was working for Garriss Shrike, a pirate captain who took in homeless children and turned them into thieves. On the rare occasion that Han was allowed to attend school or ran away from Shrike, he sought out Bey, who became a mentor to him.

Despite his friendship with Solo, Bey searched for a place he belonged. After his father's death, Bey joined the Corellian Security Force, where his heroism won him the Corellian Bloodstripe. Imperial officials "who were tightening their grip on planetary police forces" weren't comfortable with a half-alien becoming a hero and were searching for a way to remove Bey from CorSec. On what would become his final case with CorSec, Bey led the evacuation of a passenger liner that had been rigged to explode by a local terrorist group. Before he could get clear of the vessel, the bomb went off, severely injuring him. After extensive surgery and weeks in recovery, Bey was left relatively unscathed "save for the loss of his left eye, which was replaced with an electronic patch. Physicians described Bey's recovery as "incomplete" and he was declared unfit for duty. There were active officers with disabilities worse than Bey's, but bigoted Imperial officials pushed the local government to end the half-breed's career.

Bey soon left Corellia and wandered the galaxy. He moved from system to system, searching for a place to belong. He continued to encounter bigotry, but Bey's compassion and sense of justice led him to stand up for the weak and innocent. The fact that Bey never stayed in one place for too long gave him the reputation of a mysterious, traveling hero. Tales of his exploits spread far, and his legend grew. School children admired Bey as they would the star of a holodrama adventure. Bey's years of wandering brought him fame, but that was not his goal; he was searching for the truth about his mother. But the Nagai remained elusive, and Bey would spend years searching.



Watching and Waiting

The Battle of Yavin confirmed in the minds of Nagai agents that the Rebellion would be the catalyst for the disorder they hoped for. No longer a minor uprising, the Rebels' conflict with the Empire had become a civil war. Once recalled to the home colonies, months after Yavin, Krai H'voc was most vocal in suggesting the invasion should wait until that war ended. The Nagai could then strike at the exhausted victor while they were at their most vulnerable. A new group of spies and analysts focused on assessing the strengths and weaknesses of both sides of the war and -- if possible -- predict the victor. Agents infiltrated Rebel cells on worlds such as Sullust, Thaldor, and Tierfon. The difficult task of gaining access to Imperial secrets was accomplished at insecure, remote outposts. Occasional bribery of a disaffected officer provided valuable information, as well. For the next few years, the Nagai went unnoticed as they watched and waited for the time to strike.

Despite the Nagai's efforts to remain undetected, one denizen of Skyriver actively sought them out. Bey searched for his mother's origins for years. Clues his father left behind led him to the unexplored fringes of the galaxy. He heard stories from spacers who claimed to have seen mysterious vessels in a lifeless sector of space. He spotted one of those vessels himself as it entered hyperspace at the edge of the galactic perimeter. Bey approximated the other ship's course and reached Companion Besh, but a confused navicomputer sent him



out of control. His ship limped into a nearby system and crashed on Nagi, where he was discovered by an anti-Tof resistance group. After ascertaining his identity, the group brought Bey to his mother in the Nagai colonies. Bey was surprised how openly he was accepted into her home, even though she had a new husband and family to care for. He met his half-brother, Ozrei N'takkilomandrife and learned the Nagai way of life. They accepted him without reservation or mockery, treating him like one of their own, and gave him what he had never found on any other world: a home. His mother realized her son's knowledge of Skyriver could be invaluable during the coming invasion.

In the months following the Battle of Hoth, rumors of a major operation spread through the Imperial and Rebel fleets. The Alliance military in particular was in a state of high alert following a battle in Bothan space. Nagai agents on Sullust reported a Rebel fleet massing in orbit. Imperial vessels were quietly being reassigned, as well. A significant battle was coming. Believing that this could be the turning point in the war, the Nagai gathered a modest fleet of ships at the rendezvous point in the Unknown Regions. They would be prepared to strike as soon as they determined the outcome of the impending battle.

Endor Aftermath

Following their stunning victory at Endor, Rebel leaders knew they had to immediately take advantage of the confusion that followed the deaths of Palpatine and numerous high-ranking officers. The Death Star possessed the communications node for the Imperial ships in the Endor system, thus its destruction disrupted the Empire's contact to the rest of the galaxy. Short range communication was hampered by interference left behind by the battle station's explosion. The destruction of an Imperial communications center on the far side of Endor's moon helped prevent word of the Empire's defeat from reaching outside the system, but only temporarily. Imperial ships that fled the area would report back to Coruscant within days, once they reached the nearest sector capital in the Annaj system. A distress call from Imperial forces at Bakura provided an unwelcome distraction, but as the Alliance military planned a mission to that world, Mon Mothma dispatched diplomatic envoys to planets where the Rebels' hold was tenuous.

During the week of the Bakura Incident, Rebel forces at Endor engaged in salvage operations and cleaned up debris that landed in the forest. The Alliance planned to remain in the system temporarily, to regroup and reorganize their forces. Pre-fabricated structures were used to build a hangar facility and command center not far from the home of the Ewoks that helped them defeat Imperial troops. Officially named Endor Station, the base was nicknamed "Bright Tree Base" by the Rebels, in honor of their primitive allies' Bright Tree Village. An abandoned research outpost was converted into a tracking station to monitor ships throughout the system. Despite much of the Imperial command structure remaining intact, the reprisal the Alliance waited for did not come. The Empire's attempt to ascertain what had happened at Endor and who would take control of the fleet prevented them from quickly organizing a response. Officials were more concerned with dealing with the fallout from Palpatine's death than with the Rebels.

Through infiltrators in the Alliance, the Nagai learned of the battle's outcome before much of the Empire. They, too, knew that to take advantage of the ensuing confusion they would have to act quickly. In the days following the battle, small attack groups spread out to coordinate with Nagai agents in star systems allied with the Rebels. The Nagai would focus on disrupting the stability of key worlds and bringing the Alliance's competence to defend its allies into question.



The Alliance of Free Planets

While the Bakura Incident came to a close, Mon Mothma organized a meeting of delegates from worlds sympathetic to the Rebellion. She believed that simply establishing a new government led by Rebel leaders would be folly, and even worlds not involved in the Alliance should have a say. The First Conference of Free Peoples was held on Endor with representatives from various worlds in attendance. Its goal was the creation of an interim government that would lay the groundwork for the New Republic. In Mon Mothma's words: "We are no longer the Rebel Alliance. United, we are quite literally, an Alliance of Free Planets. And so shall we remain until the Republic can be restored."

The main signatories of the Declaration of the Alliance of Free Planets included Mon Mothma, Ackbar, Princess Leia Organa, Borsk Fey'lya and delegates from Kashyyyk, Corellia, Duro, Elom and Sullust. Many others added their support, including those representing resistance groups on worlds still dominated by the Empire. The conference was also attended by more primitive species including Hoojibs, Ewoks, and a single representative of the moon's elusive Lizard Warriors, Dracos. For many, their support of the group was largely symbolic, while others pledged to contribute more to the cause.

Prelude to invasion

As Nagai forces prepared to incite chaos on Alliance worlds, one attack group encountered a formation of Imperial ships in former Sith Space. The group's commander transmitted a message to the escort frigate *Revenant*, proposing an alliance against their common enemy, the Rebel Alliance. The reply did not come from a typical Imperial officer, but from a woman in armor named Lumiya. She was in command of the small fleet and pledged her forces to the Nagai. Lumiya was once Shira Brie, an Imperial spy sent by Darth Vader to infiltrate Rogue Squadron and kill or discredit Luke Skywalker. She nearly died when Skywalker shot down her fighter on a Rebel mission, but was rescued and delivered to Vader. He rebuilt her as a cyborg like himself and taught her the ways of the dark side of the Force. She was placed in command of a small group of ships and sent on an expedition to ancient Sith worlds, where she explored the dark heritage of the Sith. Upon returning to Imperial space she learned of the death of her master. The Nagai gave her the opportunity to avenge his deaths and her disfigurement by Skywalker's hand. Besides *Revenant*, Lumiya's fleet consisted of Corellian Corvettes *Borealis* and *Firestorm*, and dozens of stormtroopers and starfighters. She kept certain information from her troops and exaggerated the finality of the Empire's defeat to make them more willing to embark on her mission of vengeance. The Nagai sent Lumiya to Herdessa where she became chief of security and started a slaving operation.

Days after returning from Bakura, Princess Leia Organa, Luke Skywalker, Han Solo and Chewbacca were all sent on diplomatic missions to non-aligned planets. On these missions, the Alliance got its first glimpse of the Nagai threat. On Herdessa, Princess Leia and Mon Mothma encountered Lumiya and worked with local freedom fighters to end the slave trade there. Lumiya escaped, and the Alliance did not learn of the Nagai's involvement. Even as the Herdessian slavers were defeated, Ozrei N'takkilomandrife "now a Nagai commander" appeared on Kashyyyk attempting to reestablish the slave trade there. He did not identify himself or those he represented, but was nicknamed "Knife" by the Wookiees due to his fondness for bladed weapons. Knife was soon driven off Kashyyyk when Solo, Chewbacca and Lando Calrissian crushed his operation. Despite these seeming Alliance victories, the operations were Nagai successes. Their goal was to simply plant doubt in the minds of the many species that hoped the Alliance would end the abuse endured under the Empire.

Over the next two weeks, the Nagai sowed confusion and fear through various star systems with nearly simultaneous assaults. Lumiya charged Flint, another student of Vader's, with subjugating planets in the Phelleem sector. Knife paid a double agent named Durne to convince Rebel factions on Saijo and Cantros VII that Imperial agents had infiltrated each group. Nagai fighter squadrons disrupted shipping lanes in the Habassa system and harassed starships throughout Bothan space. Nagai raiders also targeted governments not yet officially aligned with the Alliance on Virgillia VII and in the isolated sector known as the Mephout Dominion. Though no one claimed responsibility for the attacks, the Alliance wondered if they were part of a coordinated effort by an unknown enemy.

As the Alliance dealt with the Nagai-sponsored attacks, the invaders targeted planets in the Mandalore Sector. Grand Admiral Josef Grunger was patrolling Gargon in response to reports of "albino-skinned marauders." He cut the mission short when he received word of Palpatine's death and decided to launch an attack against a rival Admiral instead. The Empire essentially abandoned the sector and left its defense to Fenn Shysa's Mandalorian Protectors. Despite Shysa's best efforts, the Nagai established a handful of bases in the region. A number of skirmishes were fought throughout the sector before the Protectors mounted an attack on a base on Mandallia. Both sides suffered high casualties, but the Mandalorians succeeded in chasing the Nagai off of the planet. When Shysa learned the Nagai next set their sights on Mandalore itself, he returned home to mount a defense. After a pitched battle, the attack was repelled. A number of offworlders were among the resistance, including Bey, recently returned from his sojourn in Companion Besh. Though he appeared to fight bravely for Mandalore, Bey was in reality sent there by the Nagai. Analysts concluded that Shysa would team with the Alliance once he learned they had a common enemy, allowing Bey to infiltrate the group indirectly.

After unleashing Flint on the Phelleem sector, Lumiya and her Nagai aide Lieutenant Den Siva established an underground base on Kinooine, a desolate planetoid at the edge of the Unknown Regions. An Alliance scouting party arrived there and was captured by a small force of Nagai. Of the 20 captives, 19 were killed, many by Lumiya's lightwhip. The remaining scout, Faron Tolis, was tortured and interrogated, but had no vital information. Unable to withstand more torture, Tolis agreed to become a servant of the Nagai, but was later killed. The scouts' absence was noted by the Alliance, and Luke Skywalker volunteered to investigate. He was



joined by the Zeltron, Dani and the Iskalonian, Kiro. Skywalker expected to find nothing more than a burned out transceiver but instead ran afoul of Lumiya. She captured Dani and left Kiro for dead before confronting Skywalker. Even before Lumiya attacked, Skywalker felt her true identity through the Force. Lumiya bested her former commander in a duel, as the young Jedi was unprepared to fight the exotic lightwhip. Lumiya kept him alive, imprisoned in a cell in the Nagai base.

While her brother fought on Kinooine, Princess Leia traveled to a conference on Kabray to assuage the fears of Alliance members who felt that the Rebel leadership was unfit to establish a government. Once there, she and Han Solo were met by a contingent of Nagai troops led by Knife. The Nagai captured the diplomats but were defeated by Solo, Organa and her young Zeltron aides. Nagai prisoners were rushed back to Endor where telepathic Hoojibs learned the name of the attackers' species and confirmed they were responsible for the unexplained assaults on Alliance worlds. Beyond the fact that more attacks were planned, the Alliance learned little from the prisoners. Scrambling to prepare for an unspecified attack ended the brief respite the fragmentation of the Empire had given the Alliance.

On Kinooine, Skywalker was freed from his cell by Kiro. The young Iskalonian rescued Dani from torture at the hands of Den Siva, while Skywalker sought out Lumiya. He defeated her in a second duel using two lightsabers to fight both the physical and energy weapon nature of her lightwhip. After shattering her mask to reveal the face of Shira Brie, he pleaded with her to turn away from the dark side as her master had done. His attempts were interrupted by a distortion in the sky. The planet's thin atmosphere afforded those on the ground a glimpse of space and dozens of Nagai ships that emerged from lightspeed. Skywalker realized this was an invasion force, and fled the landing site. He infiltrated the Nagai base and gathered any information he could from their databanks, then escaped the planet with Dani. Kiro was presumed dead after a fight with Siva.

The Nagai fleet

The fleet at Kinooine was large enough for Luke Skywalker to describe as an invasion fleet, but the Nagai considered it only an expeditionary force. Once the base was operational, it was to serve as a launching point for their invasion. The initial several dozen capital ships carried over two thousand troops made up of Nagai and Maccabrees, and over one hundred Imperial troops under Lumiya's command. Commander Dal Zorfenn and his female lieutenant, Cyn Jodu, were tasked with securing the planetoid.

The fleet comprised vessels manufactured by the Faruun, with additional technologies from the Nagai. The starships were faster and more efficient than most used by the Alliance, and incorporated the latest masking



devices developed by General Kruskob "Kob" Tiltanka. The Nagai emphasis on individuality carried over to the aesthetics of the vessels. The ships defied a common design sense, though the styling of many echoed the architecture found on Nagi. To many outsiders the reflective, colorful ships resembled works of modern art.

Standardized ship classifications were foreign to the Nagai, who placed ships in generalized categories such as "battleship" and "transport". Individual vessels were named for cities on Nagi, though Alliance Intelligence invented its own nicknames for ships they encountered. Kreytaka, first seen landing troops on Kinooine, was designated the Longneck transport by the Alliance, while the immense flagship Syalann was dubbed the Brute destroyer. Others vessels included the Spider battleship and the Swoop cruiser.

Nagai starfighters were faster and more maneuverable than their Alliance counterparts, but their weaponry was less powerful. Like their parent fleet, Nagai starfighter units were eclectic assemblies of ships. Commanders

encouraged pilots to customize the ships to make them their own. Upon learning of Lumiya's past as a fighter pilot, the Nagai offered her a starfighter of her choosing. To symbolize her quest for vengeance, she chose a ship analogous to an X-wing fighter, and dubbed it Screamer, after the creature she sought to destroy during the ill-fated operation in which she was nearly killed by Skywalker.

The Second Battle of Endor

While Skywalker raced back to Endor, new allies arrived on the forest moon. Fenn Shysa and his Mandalorian Protectors brought a dozen new Cabur-class starfighters. The wedge-shaped, twin engine fighters were manufactured by MandalMotors following the death of Mandalore's last Imperial Advisor. The Protectors were joined by Bey, who claimed to have come along just for the adventure. Alliance leaders were grateful for the help, having recently lost contact with units on Champala, Ord Bueri and Koda Space Station. Skywalker's report of the fleet at Kinooine seemed to confirm their suspicions that an attack was imminent.

An evacuation of Endor began, but only a small number of ships departed before sensors picked up a large group of fighter craft entering the system. Ackbar launched fighters to engage the enemy and cover the evacuation, unaware that hours earlier, Nagai and Maccabree troops led by Lieutenant Hool B'shaki had landed on the surface in secret and freed Knife and the other prisoners. Skywalker and Solo discovered the landing force just as the battle in space began, and learned that the Nagai had an informant on Endor.

Alliance starfighters were commanded by Gold Leader Lando Calrissian in his modified Mu-class scout shuttle Cobra, and included a temporary Rogue Squadron led by Wedge Antilles, and the Mandalorians' Resurrector Squadron. Lumiya served as Nagai flight leader, piloting her Screamer starfighter. Alliance pilots fought hard, but began to be overwhelmed by the Nagai, who seemed to anticipate their every move. On the surface, Skywalker rushed to Endor Station to warn Ackbar of the Nagai troops. Solo raced to the tracking station but was confronted by Bey, who admitted that he had brought the Nagai to Endor. When he could not bring himself to kill Solo, his half-brother Knife appeared to finish the job. After a brief struggle, Solo shot Knife, and Bey allowed his friend to escape. Once aware of the traitor in their midst, Ackbar signaled the fleet that their battle plans had been compromised. Calrissian quickly transmitted a new flight plan to his pilots, using erratic flight patterns to mask each other's movements, allowing them to pick the Nagai fighters off at will. It was a trick Calrissian had learned from Solo. Her squadron in disarray, Lumiya sounded the retreat and left the battle to the troops on Endor.

Nagai ground troops were intercepted by Major Bren Derlin's assault team before they could reach the Alliance base, allowing the High Command to complete their evacuation. Princess Leia and her Zeltron aides were attacked by Maccabrees sent to destroy the tracking station. With Skywalker's help, they fought off the cybernetic soldiers, who used their rocket boosters hidden inside their armor to escape. The surviving Nagai fled and regrouped at Kinooine. The fleet then advanced to Terminus, gaining access to both the Corellian Trade Spine and the Hydian Way.

The Continuing Invasion

After leaving Endor, the Alliance fleet dispersed to secure star systems. Mon Mothma and Ackbar remained on the move, while a large contingent under the command of General Rieekan returned to Arbra's Haven Base. Despite the Nagai threat, the Alliance launched a number of operations against Imperial forces, such as the liberation of Ralltiir, and Rogue Squadron's mission to Cilpar.

The Alliance learned just how widespread the Nagai infiltration was as it left Endor. A portion of the fleet including the *Millennium Falcon* arrived at Sullust and was ambushed by a waiting Nagai squadron. The unexpected battle proved costly, but the Alliance eventually forced the enemy to retreat. An Alliance outpost on Saijo was overrun by Maccabree warriors, allowing for the domination of that world and other worlds along the Corellian Trade Spine. The Nagai also scored victories along the Hydian Way at Rutan and Shumavar.

On Iskalon, Luke Skywalker and Lando Calrissian discovered the Nagai building a base with the help of enslaved natives. Those that refused to become slaves were slaughtered under the orders of General "Kob" Tiltanka. A controversial figure even among his own people, Kob was known for his brutality as much as his technical genius. His torturous sonic blasters were first used on Iskalon despite some Nagai believing their use was dishonorable. Skywalker and Calrissian destroyed the base and defeated the Nagai with the help of Kiro, who had been in hiding since his supposed death.

The first signs of a major shift in the direction of the war were seen on Trenwyth. The Nagai Twelfth Squadron investigating the dead planet was ambushed by "the Old Enemy." The Tofs had followed their favorite prey to the Skyriver. The outnumbered and outgunned Nagai had little chance against the brutal sneak attack. During the final stages of the battle, a transport carrying Princess Leia and her Zeltron attachés passed through the system on the way to Zeltros and was hit by stray turbolaser fire. While affecting repairs on the surface, Leia and the Zeltrons watched from a hiding place as Tofs laughed while mercilessly gunning down Nagai prisoners. One frightened Nagai named Taikotelai Akikoma came upon the group, but was too injured to pose a threat. The Princess nursed "Tai" back to health, and realized that he was deathly afraid of being bound, as if he had been abused in the past. She surmised the Tofs were responsible. The enemies came to respect each other and went their separate ways once the Tofs left. Princess Leia never learned that Tai was killed by Knife for dishonoring himself by accepting the enemy's mercy.



The Nagai next set their sights on Zeltros just as Zeltron leaders considered joining the Alliance of Free Planets. Sending representatives to serve as Princess Leia's aides was the Zeltrons' first step towards membership. After the attack on Endor, King Arno and Queen Leonie invited "the famed Heroes of Yavin" to an elaborate party thrown in their honor. They accepted, along with Calrissian, Dani and a contingent of Hoojibs from Arbra. Shortly after their arrival, Nagai and several Maccabrees led by Den Siva attacked the party to capture the dignitaries. But the Tofs had continued to track their enemy and invaded Zeltros moments later. Their commander, Supreme, was intent on capturing the Nagai, along with some Zeltrons, mostly because of the Nagai's obvious fascination with the passionate species. They succeeded and readied to kill everyone else. The Alliance and Nagai joined forces to free the captives and defeated the Tofs after a brief battle. Luke Skywalker infiltrated the Tof galleon *Wayfarer* to free captives from its brig, with the help of the insectoid Hiromi. Before escaping, Skywalker planted explosives in key areas of the vessel, leading to its destruction. The Alliance, urged by Princess Leia, extended a peace offer to the Nagai to fight the Tof invasion. The Nagai reluctantly agreed. Once the truce was made official, Lumiya defected to the Tofs, where she could continue to seek her revenge.

Days after the truce at Zeltros, the Provisional Council of the Alliance of Free Planets voted to transmit the Declaration of a New Republic. Though Mon Mothma believed the declaration came too early, member worlds believed it a necessary symbolic gesture to fight the crumbling Empire as a Republic. The Nagai, not willing to join the new government insisted that their agreement was made with the Alliance of Free Planets, and would not extend beyond the Tof defeat.

Battling the Tofs

Other Tofs followed the Zeltros invaders, and continued to attack any Nagai they tracked down, but were surprised to find them partnered with the New Republic military and the Mandalorians. The complex battle strategies of their new enemy were beyond their understanding, but what the Tofs lacked in imagination, they made up for in brute force. Their merciless soldiers slaughtered enemy troops, while their immense starships, patterned after ancient sailing vessels, had enough firepower to quickly punch through deflector shields. In an early confrontation, they easily took Saijo from the Nagai.

The Tofs were driven from various systems, but most battles were protracted and costly. A planned assault on Fondor was repelled by a combined New Republic/Nagai fleet, with high casualties for both sides. The Tof retreated from a battle in the Thesme sector only after inflicting thirty percent casualties on a Mandalorian task force. But for every loss of a system, the Tofs became more entrenched on the worlds they already held. The fighting dragged on for months, eventually leaving the Tofs with heavily fortified bases on Trenwyth, Saijo and Telfrey. Four months after the Battle of Endor, the New Republic and its allies finally routed them off of two worlds, forcing them back to seemingly impenetrable Saijo. Admiral Ackbar decided he needed a spy inside Tof operations and sent Kyle Katarn and mercenaries Dash Rendar and Guri on a top secret mission to place a spy on Saijo.

A month later, the spy reported that the Crown Prince of Tof had made the planet his own personal headquarters. Ackbar believed the capture of Prince Sereno would force the Tofs to surrender, and launched a full-scale assault on the planet. While commandos distracted enemy ground troops, and Gold and Rogue Squadrons attacked the Tof bulk cruiser Merriweather, a strike team including Organa, Solo, Skywalker, Dani, Knife, and Siva infiltrated Sereno's base, posing as prisoners. A firefight erupted in Sereno's throne room involving the infiltrators and Tof troops led by Lumiya. Princess Leia was nearly killed by Lumiya before one of the Tofs blasted the cyborg. The Tof, Ackbar's spy in disguise, revealed himself to be Bey, who had secretly turned himself in to Ackbar shortly after his treachery on Endor. The skirmish ended when Skywalker captured the Prince, who gave the order to surrender.



Aftermath

Following the defeat of the Old Enemy, the Nagai were offered membership in the New Republic and a chance to rebuild Saijo as a new home, but most opted to find their own world. Some Nagai chose to remain in this galaxy, but the majority of their fleet departed to free Nagi from the Tofs, with help from Shysa's Mandalorian Protectors. Bey eventually began working for New Republic Intelligence, considering the job his penance for the damage he caused at Endor.

Lumiya managed to survive her injuries and escape Saijo. Months later, she was working for Imperial Intelligence Director Ysanne Isard, in command of a small fleet of vessels, but disappeared not long after. Besides rumored activities during the Yuuzhan Vong War, Lumiya did not resurface for years. Decades later, she helped Sith Lord Darth Caedus come to power before she was killed by Luke Skywalker.

James McFadden wrote over a dozen articles for the UK's The Official Star Wars Fact File. He also wrote a winning entry for the "What's the Story" feature on StarWars.com's Hyperspace, and has contributed to a number of internet fan sites. He has been a fan of Star Wars for as long as he can remember.